

# SYMBOLS OF HOPE – CHURCHES RESPONSE TO IRREGULAR MIGRATION

2018-2020

The Lutheran World Federation/Department for Mission and Development Geneva, Switzerland

**Contact:** Ilona Dorji, ido@lutheranworld.org

**Target Countries:** Currently the project is implemented in Nigeria and Ethiopia. The plan is to replicate the project in other countries in 2019/20.

## **Project Rationale/Background:**

In 2017, out of a global population of 7.3 billion, there were<sup>1</sup>. 244 million international migrants, reflecting an increase of 41% since 2000

The migration crisis has been increasingly paid attention to by the international community since the migration flow to Europe in 2015 rose up at a fast pace, tripling from previous years. In addition, many cases of fatalities during the journey – border crossing, sea crossing and land crossing – were globally reported and this has raised concerns by several governments and key actors to address the crisis.

In 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, expressing their political will to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale to manage large movements of refugees and migrants.<sup>2</sup> The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, as part of Sustainable Development Goal 10 on reducing inequalities, calls for the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. In reality, many people become irregular migrants, who are victims of human trafficking, abuse and have traumatic experience.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) realizes the risks and challenges related to migration at each stage: upon departure, during the journey, at destination and upon return. Through the LWF Department for World Service currently assists 1.3 million refugees and 600,000 internally displace people worldwide.

In the present project, LWF, through its member churches in selected countries, will work on developing sustainable solutions in situations of voluntary economic migration, mainly focusing on countries of origin. LWF will play a role of networking, resource mobilization and strengthening church capacities. While many actors are already working in those countries on the topic of migration, **churches can bring two distinct advantages to the situation:** In many cases they are recognized as a moral authority and as a credible voice, appealing to faith convictions, which play a major role in individual decision making. Moreover, churches have established nationwide outreach, including to remote rural areas where other governmental and non-governmental actors may be less present and influential. One of the tasks of the churches will be to raise awareness and knowledge of individuals and communities so that people can make informed choices about whether or not to migrate. Migrants who are obliged to return to their countries often face traumatization and

<sup>1</sup> <http://gmdac.iom.int/global-migration-trends-factsheet>

<sup>2</sup> New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, 13 September 2016

stigmatization by the ones who stayed behind. Psychosocial support will be provided for helping them to re-integrate to the society. They will also be given a church contact in case they have no one else to call for upon their return.

LWF/DMD will start the work with member churches in Nigeria and Ethiopia. Member churches will be encouraged to work ecumenically as well as to partner with existing organizations/networks working on migration in their context. In a first step, churches will be assisted to map programs and materials that already exist nationally and build upon these to create factual/unbiased information, dispelling some myths around migration, thereby empowering potential migrants to make informed decisions.

### **Target groups:**

**Direct target group:** potential and returning migrants in targeted areas; especially focusing on vulnerable populations including women with children, women, unaccompanied children and young adults. **Indirect target group:** families and communities of potential and returning migrants

### **Goal and objectives:**

The overall goal is to work towards sustainable solutions to the migration crisis.

**Objective 1:** Analysis of the current situation and existing networks with Churches, International Organizations, NGOs, CSOs and government bodies working on migration related issues internationally and in countries of origin.

1.1 Stakeholder mapping, baseline study, needs assessment and contextual analysis of migration

1.2 Identify and network with key actors working on migration at national, regional and international levels

**Objective 2:** Prospective migrants are enabled to take informed decisions on migration based on information received from churches' Migration Resource Centers (MRCs)

2.1 Set up MRCs and prepare necessary information and resources for prospective and return migrants

2.2 Provide persuasive real life testimonies to render information more accessible and understandable

2.3 Create and disseminate theological messages related to migration for congregation

2.4 Raise awareness of individuals and communities of regular and irregular migration, including possible risks

2.5 Organize outreach activities and mass media campaigns through channels such as radio, television, social media, etc.

2.6 Create peer-to-peer linkage by working with Youth Global Communion

2.7 Disseminate messages through celebrities or high profile individuals.

**Objective 3:** Returning migrants receive psycho-social support enhancing their reintegration into local communities

3.1 Organize training of trainers on psychosocial support/counseling to church members for providing necessary support to returnees who have made traumatic experiences

3.2 Provide counseling services to returning individuals who have faced traumatic experience during journey and/ or at destination

3.3 Engage local communities to support returnees for re-integration

3.4 Provide a church contact in Ethiopia and Nigeria for returnees leaving Europe

**Objective 4:** Churches contribute to influencing governments for well-managed policies and processes on migration

5.1 Advocate towards the government for developing well-managed policies on migration and providing social services to returnees

5.2 Support churches to work with strategic partners in national advocacy programs

5.3 Establish linkage with international community working on migration

### **Project management**

The day-to-day coordination and monitoring of program activities as well as the compilation of narrative and financial reporting, based on input from the field, will be done by the LWF Geneva office. The Program Coordinator for the migration program will also be the official contact person for communication with donor organizations and the LWF. The local coordination will be led by the implementing churches with a designated National Coordinator in each country.

### **Budget 2018**

Budget item	Geneva	Nigeria	Ethiopia	Total Cost
<b>PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>1 Situational analysis and networking</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1000</b>
1.1 Data collection, baseline study, needs assessment and contextual analysis				0
1.2 Network with key actors at national, regional and international levels		500	500	1,000
<b>2 Awareness and information for potential migrants</b>		<b>13500</b>	<b>17000</b>	<b>30500</b>
2.1 Set up and maintain Migration Resource Center		2,000	7,000	9000
2.2 Raise awareness on regular and irregular migration: billboard other advocacy material		7,500	5,000	12500
2.3 Organize outreach activities		1,000	2000	3000
2.4 Collection of real life testimonies (in Europe, Nigeria and Ethiopia), including production of related material		1000	1000	2000
2.5 Develop a website		1000	1000	2000
2.6 Global Advocacy		1000	1000	2000

<b>3</b>	<b>Psycho-social support for returning migrants</b>		<b>6000</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>12000</b>
3.1	2xTraining of 10 pastors on psychosocial support/ counselling		2500	2500	5000
3.2	Providing counseling services including honorarium		2500	2500	5000
3.3	Engage local communities to support re-integration		1,000	1000	2000
<b>4</b>	<b>Migration advocacy and partnerships</b>		<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>4000</b>
4.1	Advocate to the government		0	0	0
4.2	Work with strategic partners		1000	1,000	2000
4.3	Linkage with international community		1000	1000	2000
<b>5</b>	<b>Capital cost</b>		<b>5300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5300</b>
5.1	Computers		300		300
5.2	Furniture		2000		2,000
5.3	Office Space and communication in Benin city		3,000		3,000
5.4	Vehicle				
<b>6</b>	<b>Administration and overhead</b>	<b>63,300</b>	<b>19,753</b>	<b>22,375</b>	<b>105,428</b>
6.1	Administration and overhead in target countries	0	5,000	6,000	11,000
6.2	Salaries and other related costs in target countries	0	10,000	12,000	22,000
6.3	Coordination	60,000	0	0	60,000
6.4	Office costs and transportation expenses		2,000	2,000	4,000
6.5	Audit fee		700	700	1,400
6.6	Unforeseen cost	3,300	2,053	1,675	7,028
			<b>47,053</b>	<b>47,875</b>	<b>158,228</b>

**Irregular migration** - Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country. There is, however, a tendency to restrict the use of the term "illegal migration" to cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.